

July 7, 2006

Alicia C. Matthews  
Director  
Cable Television Division  
DTE  
1 South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

Re: CTV 06-1

Dear Director Matthews:

As a Massachusetts consumer, I am tired of watching my cable bill increase year after year while seeing a very limited increase in real competitive options and a lack of new technology advances. It is common knowledge that when a competitor enters a market, prices go down and companies are forced to continually improve their product so as not to lose customers to other competitors.

Reforming the current franchising process would encourage new providers to enter the market, and would benefit consumers with lower prices and innovative product options. If it's working in other states like Connecticut, Virginia, Texas, and Indiana (just to name a few), why not bring these same benefits to the deserving citizens of Massachusetts?

Already, there are a few cities in our state that will reap the benefits of competition through local agreements with telecom companies that have played by the old rules of city-by-city franchising. Unfortunately, with approximately 361 cities and towns in Massachusetts, and so few receiving the competitive alternative offered by these companies, it could be a very long before all Massachusetts consumers have a competitive option for cable television services.

Massachusetts consumers want a choice in our cable service provider. We want to have access to the latest technology, and we want to pay competitive prices for our television entertainment services. An expedited franchise process would bring these benefits to consumers. Please act now to do the right thing for Massachusetts consumers.

Sincerely,

Emily Byrne  
978-453-3913  
Emily\_Byrne@yahoo.com